

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 08046 171840Z

42

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-14 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SCI-06 FEAE-00

OMB-01 DRC-01 /166 W

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R 171815Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2123

USMISSION VIENNA

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 8046

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, IAEA, IN

SUBJECT: IAEA BOARD ON INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION

REF: VIENNA 5291

1. WE NOTED THAT INDIAN AMBASSADOR JAIPAL SAID AT THE JUNE 13 IAEA BOARD MEETING THAT THE "EXPLOSION SHOULD NOT HAVE COME AS SURPRISE RECALLING AUGUST 2,1972 AND NOVEMBER 15,1973 STATEMENTS IN INDIAN PARLIAMENT THAT QTE UNDERGROUND TESTS FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES WILL BE UNDERTAKEN UNQTE" (PARA 15 REFTTEL).

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 08046 171840Z

2. WHILE CONSISTENT WITH THE INDIAN GOVERNMENTS PRESENT

TACTIC OF SAYING THAT IT ONLY DID WHAT IT SAID ALL ALONG
IT WAS GOING TO DO, JAIPAL'S QUOTATION IS INACCURATE.
AND, ONE MIGHT ADD, HARDLY IN KEEPING WITH HIS PRIVATE
OBSERVATION THAT HE WAS TOTALLY UNAWARE OF THE DECISION TO
TEST AND HAD PERSONALLY ASSUMED THAT INDIA WOULD NOT DO
SO (PARP 4 A VIENNA 5114 NOTAL).

3. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED) ON AUGUST 2,1972, IN REPLY TO A
QUESTION ON WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WAS STUDYING THE FEASI-
BILITY OF UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS FOR MINERALS
EXTRACTION, THE PRIME MINISTER NOTED: "THE ATOMIC ENERGY
COMMISSION IS STUDYING SITUATIONS UNDER WHICH PEACEFUL NUCLEAR
EXPLOSIONS CARRIED OUT UNDERGROUND CAN BE OF ECONOMIC
BENEFIT TO INDIA WITHOUT CAUSING ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS."
ON NOVEMBER 15,1973, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ON WHETHER
ANY FINAL DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN TO CONDUCT EXPERIMENTS
TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR BLAST TECHNOLOGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES,
SHE SAID: "NO SIR. THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY IS
CONSTANTLY REVIEWING THE PROGRESS IN THE TECHNOLOGY OF
UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS BOTH FROM THEORETICAL AND
EXPERIMENTAL ANGLES. THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF SUCH UNDER-
GROUND EXPLOSIONS IS BEING STUDIED WITH RESPECT TO AVAILABLE
INFORMATION IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.ITS POSSIBLE
EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS ARE
ALSO BEING STUDIED.IT IS ONLY AFTER SATISFACTORY ANSWERS
TO ALL THESE PROBLEMS ARE AVAILABLE THAT THE QUESTION OF
ACTUAL UNDERGROUND TESTS FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES CAN
BE UNDERTAKEN".
MOYNIHAN

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Message Attributes

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